6th March 1961]

Sarada Act

* 596 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(i) the number of cases registered.

(ii) Persons prosecuted; and

(iii) convicted under Sarada Act (Child Marriages Act) in 1958–59 and 1959–60?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :

	1958–59.	1959–60.
(i)	Nil.	2
(ii)	Nil.	8
(iii)	Nil.	Nil.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is the Hon. Minister aware that in villages still many child-marriages are conducted, and if so, will the Government enforce this Act more vigorously?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think that child marriages are so largely prevalent in the villages or towns nowadays.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : May I know whether there is any proposal to bring forward a legislation prohibiting marriages where the age-differences between the parties to the marriage is beyond 16 years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : As far as the Government are concerned, there is no such proposal.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Although there were so many prosecutions still none was convicted and what is the reason for that?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I had just now stated that in 1958 there were no prosecutions at all.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : What is the *modus operandi* which the Government adopt to find out the infringement of the Sarada Act. Do the Government depend entirely upon some private person complaining to the Government about this kind of offence or do they employ C.I.D. of the Police Department for this purpose?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Action is taken only on private complaints.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Government help those spinsters who are 30 years old to enable them to find husbands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I can tell the hon. Member that the Government have not set up any matrimonial organisation.